

BOOK 4

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

AND

CLEOPATRA

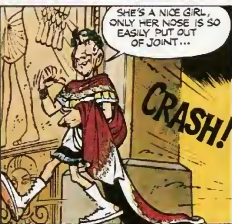
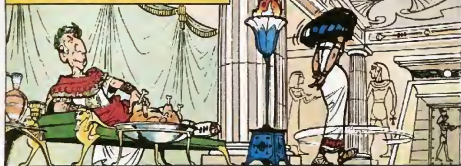


THE GREATEST STORY EVER DRAWN

**14 LITRES OF INDIAN INK, 30 BRUSHES,
62 PENCILS, 1 HARD PENCIL, 27 ERASERS,
1984 SHEETS OF PAPER, 16 TYPEWRITER
RIBBONS, 2 TYPEWRITERS, 366 PINTS OF
BEER WENT INTO ITS CREATION**

HODDER DARGAUD

ALEXANDRIA, CAPITAL OF EGYPT. THE PALACE OF THE FABULOUS QUEEN CLEOPATRA, OF WHOM IT WAS SAID THAT IF HER NOSE HAD BEEN SHORTER IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE WHOLE COURSE OF HISTORY...





SOON AFTERWARDS...

OH!



N.B. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF OUR READERS, WE GIVE A DUBBED VERSION OF THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE...

EDIFIS, I HAVE SUMMONED YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST ARCHITECT IN ALEXANDRIA ...WHICH ISN'T SAYING MUCH



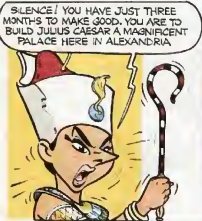
OH!

* DUE TO THE FACT THAT DUBBING TECHNIQUES HAD NOT BEEN PERFECTED AT THIS PERIOD THE MOVEMENT OF THE LIPS DOES NOT SYNCHRONIZE VERY WELL WITH THE WORDS



DON'T ANSWER BACK! YOUR BUILDINGS ARE FJIMSY! YOU CAN HEAR EVERY WORD THE NEIGHBOURS SAY! THE CEBLINGS FALL IN!

IT'S THESE MODERN MATERIALS ... ACTUALLY, WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS BUILD PYRAMIDS AND...



SILENCE! YOU HAVE JUST THREE MONTHS TO MAKE GOOD. YOU ARE TO BUILD JULIUS CAESAR A MAGNIFICENT PALACE HERE IN ALEXANDRIA



DID YOU SAY THREE MONTHS?

IF YOU SUCCEED I WILL COVER YOU WITH GOLD! IF NOT, YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE CROCODILES! YOU MAY GO!



THREE MONTHS! I'D NEED SUPERNATURAL POWERS TO DO THAT! I'D NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN WORK MAGIC ...



GOT IT!
I KNOW THE VERY MAN! HE CAN WORK MAGIC!



AND FAR AWAY, IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN GAUL ...

V.I.V.I*
AGAIN, IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

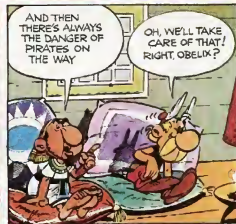
HA! HA!
IT IS MAGIC!

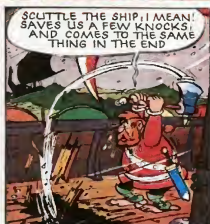
THIS ROMAN GAME WILL NEVER CATCH ON ...

* S S S S S S S

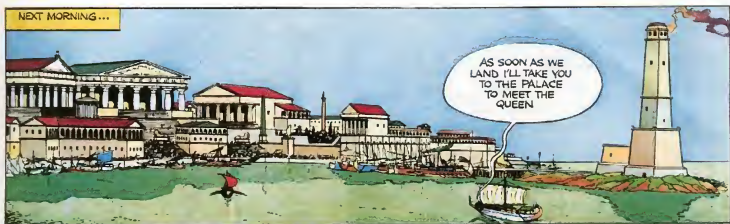








NEXT MORNING...



AND IN HER PALACE THE LUXURY-LOVING CLEOPATRA IS SITTING DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE SNACK - PEARLS DISSOLVED IN VINEGAR



HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!



UGH! I DO HATE TOO MUCH PEARL IN MY VINEGAR!



VERY WELL, BUT GET ON WITH IT! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT, AND CAESAR KEEPS NEEDLING ME. IF YOU SUCCEEDED THERE'LL BE GOLD ALL ROUND. IF NOT - THE CROCODILES!

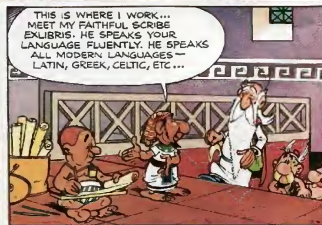


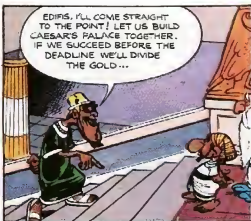
AND I WARN YOU, EDFIS, YOUR RIVAL ARTIFIS IS NOT PLEASED THAT I CHOSE YOU AND NOT HIM TO BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE. HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE, YOU MAY GO

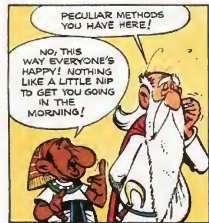
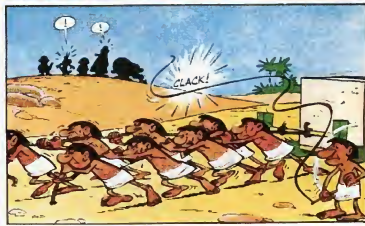
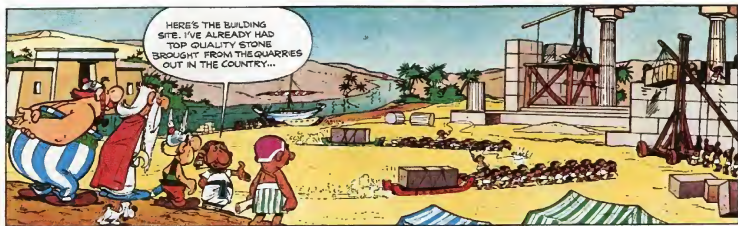


SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...

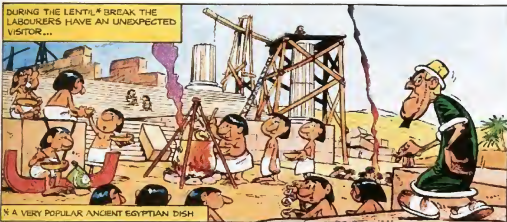








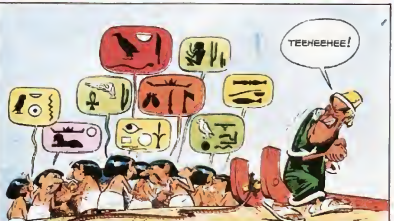
DURING THE LENTIL BREAK THE LABOURERS HAVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



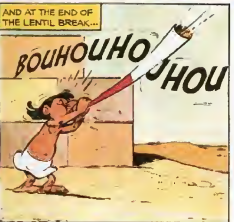
IS A VERY POPULAR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DISH



WHOSE REMAINS ARE EVIDENTLY OF ABSORBING INTEREST



AND AT THE END OF THE LENTIL BREAK...



...THE LABOURERS MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR...



...THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING BACK TO WORK



MASTER! THE LABOURERS KONT GO ON WITH THE JOB! I THINK SOMEDONE'S BEEN STIRRING THEM UP AGAINST YOU!



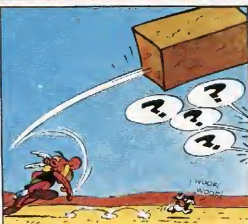
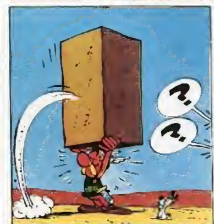
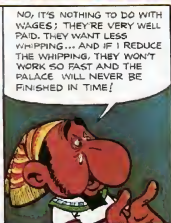
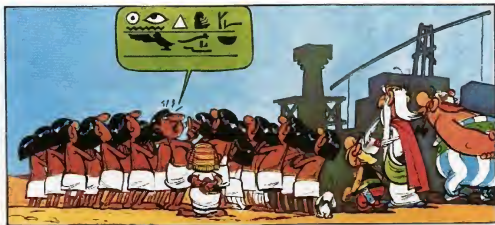
ALL THESE WORRIES ARE POSITIVELY BLOOD-CURDLING! BY THE TIME THE CROCODILES GET ME I'LL BE QUITE UNEATABLE!

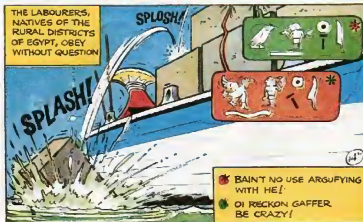
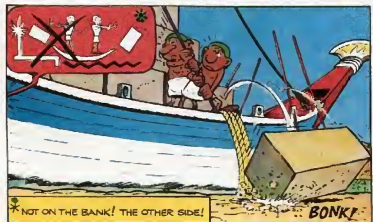
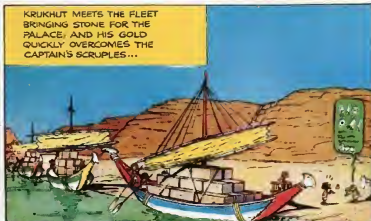


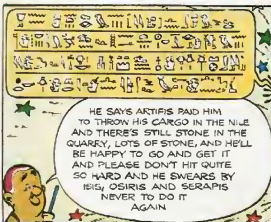
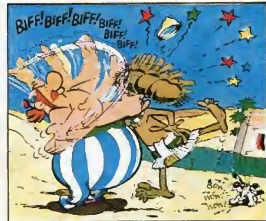
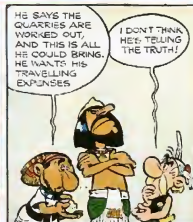
ALL THE BETTER! ARE YOU SO KEEN TO MAKE THEM A GOOD MEAL?

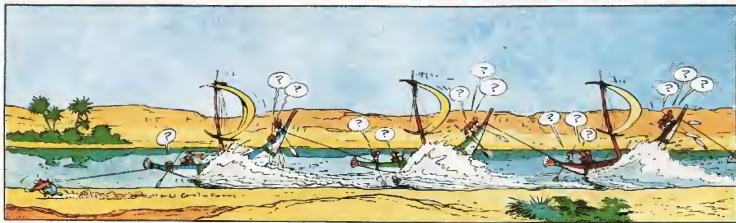
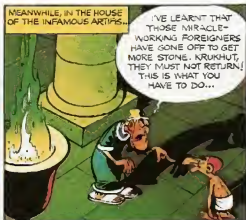
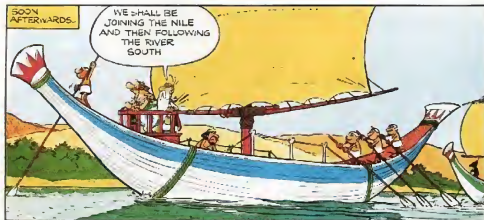
BUT THOSE ARE SACRED CROCODILES! YOU CANT JUST FEED THEM ANY OLD THING!

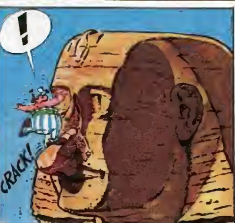
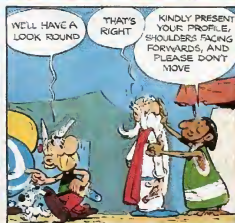
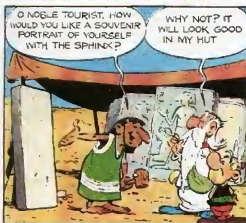
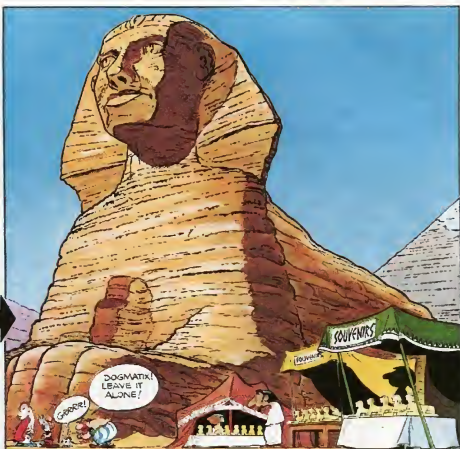


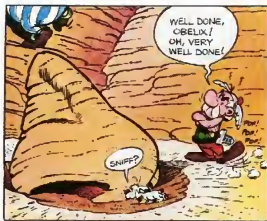






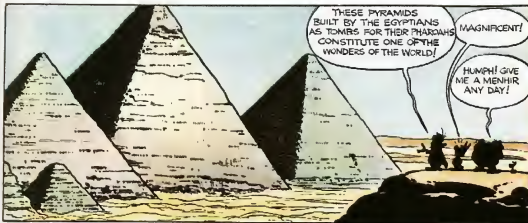






SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE SPHINX HAS NO NOSE. WHICH IS A PITY, FOR THE SPHINX'S NOSE, LOST TO THIS DAY, WAS A VERY FINE SPECIMEN OF A NOSE, IF NOT SO BEAUTIFUL AS CLEOPATRA'S, WHICH, AS WE BELIEVE WE MENTIONED BEFORE, WAS A VERY PRETTY NOSE INDEED





THESE PYRAMIDS BUILT BY THE EGYPTIANS AS TOMBS FOR THEIR PHAROHS CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD!

MAGNIFICENT!

HUMPH! GIVE ME A MENHIR ANY DAY!



FROM THE SUMMIT OF THESE PYRAMIDS, OBELIX, TWENTY CENTURIES, LOOK DOWN UPON US!



WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE ROUND INSIDE THE PYRAMIDS?

OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INTO THE TOMBS...

THESE EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY!



THIEVES HAVE ALREADY BROKEN IN... THOUGH VERY FEW GOT OUT AGAIN...



BUT OF COURSE SUCH NOBLE VISITORS CAN TRUST ME!

WELL THEN, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT...



THAT'S NO PLACE FOR LITTLE DOGS... YOU WANT HERE FOR US! IF YOU'RE GOOD YOU'LL GET A NICE BONE!



INSIDE THE PYRAMID

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF ME, YOU'D NEVER GET OUT OF THIS LABYRINTH ALIVE

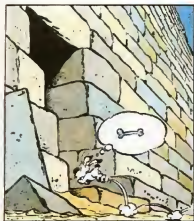


COME ALONG IN... THIS ROOM BOASTS SOME MAGNIFICENT HIEROGLYPHS...



YOU WILL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE, FOREIGN DEVILS! THIS TOMB WILL BE YOURS!





INSIDE THE PYRAMID...

MY POWERS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GET US OUT OF HERE. AM VERY MUCH AFRAID THIS MAY BE THE END OF OUR ADVENTURES BY BELENDUS!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR EDIFIS... WITHOUT OUR HELP HE'LL END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE

WELL, I'M SORRY FOR MY POOR LITTLE DOGMATIX... AREN'T I DOGMATIX?

DOGMATIX?!



YES, DOGMATIX! WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CROSS WITH ME FOR BRINGING HIM? ANYWAY, I DIDN'T BRING HIM, HE CAME ALL BY HIMSELF!



EXACTLY! HE'S FOUND US THANKS TO HIS NOSE... IN WHICH CASE HE CAN FIND HIS WAY BACK AGAIN AND SHOW US THE WAY OUT!

BY BELENDUS, YOU'RE RIGHT!



DOGMATIX, IF YOU HELP US OUT OF HERE YOU'LL GET A VERY BIG BONE OUTSIDE!



YOU'LL GET TWO BIG BONES!



HEAPS OF BIG BONES!



OBELIX, I APOLOGIZE! YOU WERE QUITE RIGHT TO BRING YOUR DOGGIE!

SOMETIMES I FEEL HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING I SAY!





AFTER A VOYAGE OF MANY STADIA *

MY FRIENDS! BACK AT LAST!

AND WE'VE BROUGHT YOU ENOUGH STONE TO FINISH THE PALACE!

* STADIUM: ROMAN MEASURE OF ABOUT 621 METRES, AS THERE ARE 30-46 CENTIMETRES IN A FOOT AND 12 FEET IN AN ALEXANDRINE, IT IS EASY TO WORK OUT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 503 ALEXANDRINES IN ONE STADIUM



THE LABOURERS, WELL DOGED WITH MAGIC POTION, WORK SWIFTLY

I'VE JUST HEARD THAT CLEOPATRA'S GOING TO VISIT THE BUILDING SITE!

IF I WASN'T HERE TO CORRECT THESE PLANS...



SURE ENOUGH...



OH, DON'T STOP! I'M JUST PAYING A QUIET VISIT, INCOGNITO. DO GO ON!



THERE'S NO DENYING IT, SHE DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE

DID YOU SEE HER NOSE DOGNATIX?



MEANWHILE, IN ARTIFIS'S HOUSE...

AN IDEA! I NEED AN IDEA!



HELP ME! AND FOR THE LAST TIME GO AND SHAVE YOUR HEAD!

I CAN'T, MASTER. I MADE A VOW...



I'VE GOT IT! IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE!

SLAP!





SOON AFTERWARDS...



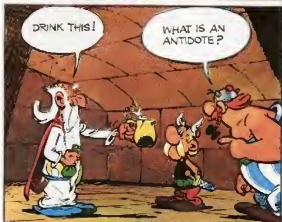
CAKE?
WHAT CAKE?



IT'S ALL A MISTAKE,
BY TOUTATIS!
WE'RE INNOCENT!

OOH, OOH, OOH!







BY OSIRIS, GAULS, SINCE YOU HAVE SWORN TO DESTROY ME I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW A QUEEN CAN DIE!

NO, NO, BY TOUTATIS JUST LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY FOR ONCE!



I'M SURE THAT CAKE'S NOT POISONED I THOUGHT IT LOOKED A VERY NICE CAKE!

OH, DID YOU? VERY WELL THEN, YOU CAN EAT IT! BRING IN THE CAKE!



JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO SUGGEST, O QUEEN...

THERE'S ONE OVER THERE

OBELIX, HAVE YOU GOT A KNIFE OR A CAKE-SUCCIE ABOUT YOU?



MAY I?

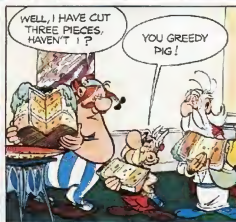


CUT THREE PIECES OF THIS CAKE

COMING, COMING!



HE SAID THREE PIECES, OBELIX!



WELL, I HAVE CUT THREE PIECES, HAVEN'T I?

YOU GREEDY PIG!



I SORUNCH! SORUNCH! SORUNCH!

IT'S GOT ALMONDS IN IT! SHLURP! YUMMY! I LOVE ALMONDS!



THERE, QUEEN! YOU CAN SEE THAT CAKE ISN'T POISONED!

THEN WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY TASTER?

OBELIX!

THERE ARE STILL A FEW ALMONDS LEFT...



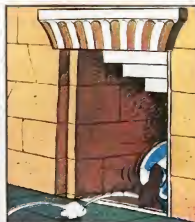
SEND FOR THIS TASTER! I'LL CURE HIM!

WHENEVER I WANT TO DO ANYTHING MR ASTERIX WON'T LET ME!

BECAUSE MR OBELIX DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE IN FRONT OF A QUEEN! THAT'S WHY!!!









I GIVE IN! I HOPED TO STOP YOU FINISHING THE PALACE. NO HARD FEELINGS?

NO HARD FEELINGS, AND TO PROVE IT WE'LL TAKE YOU TWO ALONG WITH US. WE'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU

SOON AFTERWARDS AT THE BUILDING SITE

THIS IS WHAT COMES OF ALL THOSE WICKED THINGS YOU MADE ME DO, BOSS!

SHUT UP AND PULL, WILL YOU!

THE BUILDING'S COMING ALONG NICELY, EDIFIS

THANKS TO YOU THREE, GETAFIX!

MEANWHILE, IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE...

AVE, CLEOPATRA. WELL, NOW'S THE PALACE GOING? TIME WILL SOON BE UP

AVE, CAESAR. OH IT'S GETTING ON NICELY. THANKS, JULIUS! I'LL SOON BE ABLE TO HAVE A LITTLE PALACE WARMING

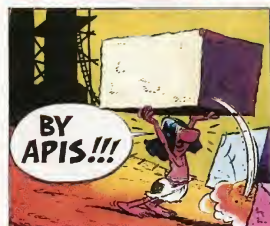
AVE CAESAR!

AVE! LEGIONARY, GO AND FIND MINTJULEP MY EGYPTIAN SPY

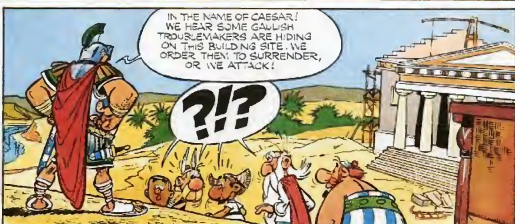
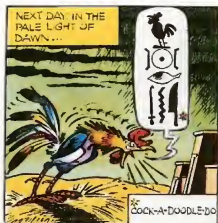
AVE, CAESAR!

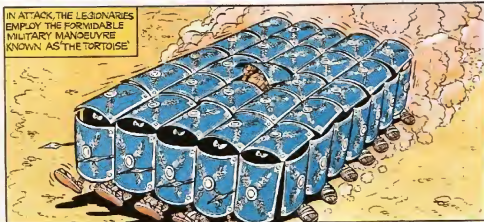
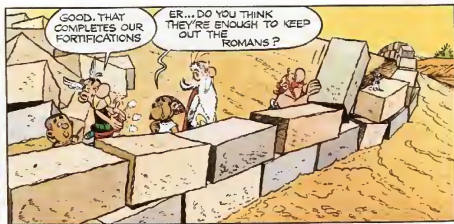
AVE AVE, MINTJULEP. I LOOK LIKE LOSING FACE WITH CLEOPATRA...

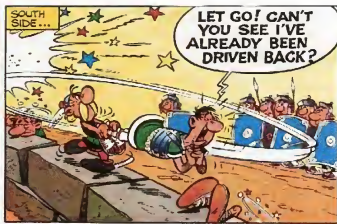
I WAS TOLD THAT EDIFIS THE ARCHITECT WAS A NITWIT, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE PALACE WILL BE READY IN TIME. GO TO THE BUILDING SITE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, BY JUPITER!

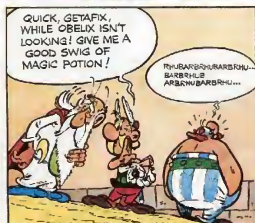
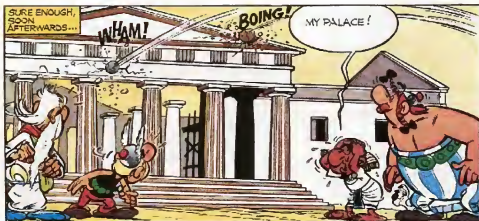




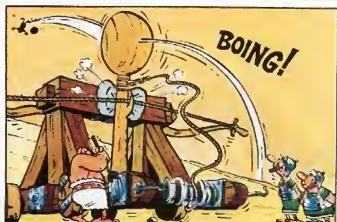




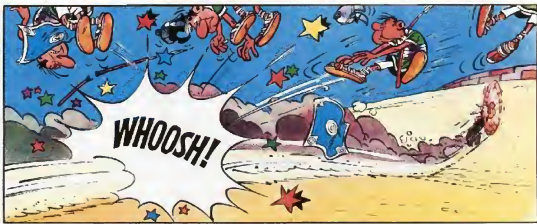




WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE
BESIEGED MEN IS
TRYING TO BREAK OUT!!



WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK IN AGAIN!



HERE YOU ARE, OBELEX! DOGMATIX HAS JUST GOT BACK! HE DID HIS JOB PERFECTLY!

THERE YOU ARE! YOU SEE?

LET'S HOPE THE QUEEN ACTS QUICKLY. THE ROMAN MISSILES ARE DESTROYING THE PALACE!



SURE ENOUGH, IN THE CAMP OF THE BESIEGING ARMY...

EXCELLENT, OPERACHORUS, EXCELLENT!

THERE YOU ARE, CAESAR! EVEN IF WE DON'T CAPTURE THEM, THE PALACE WILL BE DESTROYED JUST THE SAME!



AVE, CAESAR... ER... SOMEONE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU...

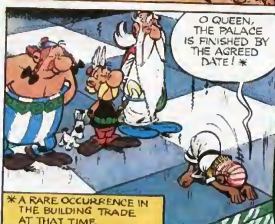
WHO IS IT?







AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...



NEXT DAY...

